

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 689

By Sexton

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the staff and volunteers of the Cumberland County Fair upon being named 2011 Champion of Champions by the Tennessee Association of Fairs.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those events that promote local agriculture, entertain and educate our citizens, and celebrate the history and culture of the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland County Fair is one such event, and it recently received the prestigious honor of being named the Champion of Champions by the Tennessee Association of Fairs (TAF); and

WHEREAS, Cumberland County officials accepted the award, presented by Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) Commissioner Julius Johnson, at the 2012 Tennessee Association of Fairs Convention in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this distinct honor, the members of Cumberland County Fair Association also received the "Award of Merit" from the TDA and TAF President Tommy Wheatley, which recognizes them for their overall operations, the fair's educational value, and their promotion of local business and community agriculture; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, the Cumberland County Fair was chosen as State Champion in 1977; Sweepstakes winner in 1980; Champion of Champions in 1991 and 1996; Runner-Up in 1999, 2006, and 2009; and Division Champion in 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2010; and

WHEREAS, a local tradition for sixty-four years, the fair boasts the popular midway attraction, the 4-H Market Show and Sale, breed shows, animal costume classes, countless educational demonstrations, community displays, and a wide range of competitions and

entertainment, such as the Senior and Junior Idol contests and Fairest of the Fair competition, which draws visitors from all over the county and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, through the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program, the Cumberland County Fair was able to make many improvements to the fairgrounds recently, including the replacement of lighting and electrical in the arena, the fencing and reshaping of the arena floor, the replacement of the roof, and the repair of the livestock barn; and

WHEREAS, further efforts improved the sound systems, projection screens, portable bleachers, and highway entrance signs and initiated the process of constructing another permanent structure to store equipment; and

WHEREAS, the fair's 2011 theme, "Where Farm Meets Fun," emphasized the celebration of agriculture in a relaxing and friendly environment fun for the whole family; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Cumberland County Fair saw more than fifty thousand visitors in attendance and featured 4,574 exhibits, all with the help of 565 volunteers; and

WHEREAS, of those exhibits, over 2,000 promoted local agriculture, showcasing livestock, horticulture, domestic arts, the Future Farmers of America, the 4-H, and a variety of school and community clubs; and

WHEREAS, leading the Cumberland County Fair to its remarkable success were President Lynn Tollett, Vice-President Linda Bottoms, Secretary Leah Threet, and Treasurer Everett Bolin, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, lending additional support to the fair officers were directors Gary Adams, Jason Atkinson, Dave Beaty, Bob Bottoms, Betty Bowman, Ralph England, Bob Grant, Garry Hood, David Manis, Julie Smith, Ricky Smith, Ted Swafford, Julie Thompson, and Danny Wilson; and

WHEREAS, the officers and directors of the Cumberland County Fair were most grateful for the acumen of their advisors: Kelli Bottoms, Chester Bush, Robbie Casteel, Keith Cole, Alfred Gilliam, Walt Hitch, Gregg Upchurch, and Taunee Whittenbarger; and

WHEREAS, contributing to the overall success of our State's fair industry, the Cumberland County Fair's well-earned recognition as Champion of Champions brings great

pride to the people of Cumberland County, who every year unite with tireless dedication to celebrate and promote local business, agriculture, and history with this time-honored event; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the staff and volunteers of the Cumberland County Fair for their tremendous service to the people of Cumberland County, congratulate them upon the fair's deserved recognition as the recipient of the 2011 Champion of Champions Award, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.